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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Joint written statement* submitted by the Nonviolent Radical Party, the Transnational and Transparty, non-governmental organization in general consultative status, the Women's Human Rights International Association, non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 February 2016]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The human rights situation in Iran continues to be very disturbing. The report to the UN General Assembly by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, is indicative of this point.

According to the latest statistics, the Islamic Republic of Iran has executed nearly 1000 people in 2015. This is the highest number of executions since 1989 in one year.

Since Hassan Rouhani came to office, more than 2,200 people have been executed in Iran which has the highest number of executions in the world per capita. Execution of juveniles continues in Iran, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child on January 29 in its concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic report of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: "The Committee deplores that the State party continues to execute children and those who have committed a crime while under 18 years of age, despite its previous recommendations and numerous criticisms by human rights treaty bodies."

Some 60 executions took place in public in Iran in the past year. Numerous photos of the executions that were published in state-run media indicate the presence of women and children in different scenes of executions in various cities across Iran. These scenes violate children's rights and the child convention to which the Islamic Republic is a signatory.

Many of these executions that are carried out in the name of fighting drugs are ambiguous because in the atmosphere of repression and censorship that exists in Iran and the lack of adequate judicial due process, it is hard to find the facts behind the executions that occur in Iran due to drug-related offenses.

However, one thing is certain: The Iranian regime by continuing the executions doesn't want to end the drug abuses in Iran, but to spread fear in the turbulent Iranian society.

In a country where Facebook posts, tweets and even private photos taken by people are checked and controlled, it is unbelievable that there is no possibility of investigating and arresting the main distributors of drugs.

Since coming to power, Hassan Rouhani presented his policy as if he will bring about changes. But the reality of executions last year and organized repression by the regime's security forces against the press, journalists, activists and families of political prisoners and members of the Iranian opposition that followed led to mass arbitrary arrests and death sentences or long prison sentences on false charges, including "Moharebeh" (waging war God), and showed the illusory nature of these changes more than any other time.

Last December, the Islamic Republic of Iran was rebuked by the United Nations for the 62nd time. Ahmed Shaheed, the UN Special Rapporteur, noted with disappointment that execution of juveniles by the regime continues and women are still treated as second-class citizens. Last year, dozens of women were attacked with acid on their face for not abiding by the strict dress code. Young women were banned from taking part in some academic fields in universities, and during Rouhani's tenure the parliament has passed several laws that marginalize half of the population more than ever and deny them their rights.

Journalists, bloggers and opposition activists continue to be arrested by the regime. In addition, many political prisoners of the 1980s and supporters of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) were re-arrested and persecuted in the past year.

Regarding the alarming situation of girls in Iran, the Committee on the Rights of the Child states in its report: "The Committee is seriously concerned that despite its previous recommendations, the age of majority remains set at pre-

defined ages of puberty for girls at 9 and for boys at 15 lunar years which results in depriving girls and boys above these ages from the protection under the Convention."

According to the United Nations report, the Iranian regime has continued to use various methods of torture, including gouging out eyes and amputation of limbs in the past year. In addition, according to Iran's state-run media, the regime has flogged hundreds of people under the pretext of breaking fast in Ramadan. All of these conducts are gross violations of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights to which Iran is a signatory.

The deplorable human rights record of the Islamic Republic of Iran last year, as well as the 110 executions which occurred from December 18, 2015, when the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, until February 12, 2016, reiterates more than ever the need to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and also to provide a substantive resolution to advance the human rights situation in Iran.

Hands off Cain and Comite de soutien au droits de l'homme en iran – CSDHI, NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.